

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 100840Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 10934

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. IN A RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, PRESIDENT LON NOL TUESDAY APPEALED TO ALL KHMERS TO RESTORE PEACE TO THE LAND. HE REITERATED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TOWARDS THAT GOAL INCLUDING THE UNILATERAL SUSPENSION OF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TWO DAYS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT IN JANUARY. IGNORING OUR GOOD WILL, THE PRESIDENT SAID, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG HAVE REFUSED TO ABIDE BY ARTICLE 20 OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH CALLS FOR ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND WAR MATERIALS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM KHMER TERRITORY.

HE ALSO REVALIDATED THE GOVERNMENT'S JULY 6 SIX-POONT PEACE PROPOSAL, WHICH HAS BEEN SPURNED BY THE INSURGENTS. APPEALING TO KHMERS OF THE OTHER SIDE, HE SAID ALL THEY HAD TO DO AT ANY TIME WAS TO NAME THE PLACE AND DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ALL DESIRE. HE SAID THAT THE HOUR HAD COME FOR KHMERS TO STOP KILLING EACH OTHER.

2. MEANWHILE, THE FIGHTING ACROSS THE LAND CONTINUED AT THE SAME

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LOW LEVEL WHICH HAS CHARACTEIZED THE LAST FEW DAYS. AT VIHEAR SUOR

NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, A GOVERNMENT RELIEF FORCE HAS PUSHED TO WITHIN SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS OF THE ISOLATED GARRISON. THEY ARE BEING SUPPORTED IN THE OPERATION BY THE NAVY, THE AIR FORCE AND ARTILLERY OF THE ARMY.

3. AT TUK LAK AND SALA LEK PRAM, THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN POINTS RESPECTIVELY OF CUT HIGHWAY 5, THE SITUATION REMAINS SERIOUS AS COMMUNIST FORCES ARE ATTACKING BOTH TOWNS FROM THREE DIRECTIONS.

4. IN KOMPONG CHAM, FANK REPORTS THREE LIGHT SHELLING ATTACKS DURING THE DAY TUESDAY AND THREE MORE DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING WEDNESDAY. THEY WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE AIRFIELD, THE TEXTILE FACTORY ON ROUTE 7 AND ON FANK POSITIONS NORTH OF THE CITY. THERE WERE NO CASUALTY REPORTS.

5. SRANG AND TRAM KHAN ON ROUTE 3 SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH REPORTED CONTINUED COMMUNIST PRESSURE AS MIXED MORTAR AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FOLLOWED BY GROUND PROBES HIT THE ISOLATED TOWNS. FANK REPORTS ALL ATTACKS WERE REPULSED. THE FOUR PROVINCIAL CENTERS OF TAKEO, KAMPOT, KOMPONG THOM AND SVAY RIENG ALL REPORTED LIGHT ENEMY SHELLINGS DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS.

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